Dennis L. Scarnecchia Kent Gilge Phillip A. Stewart PROFILE OF RECREATIONAL PADDLEFISH SNAGGERS ON THE UPPER MISSOURI RIVER, MONTANA

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Until recently, few studies have focused on understanding the values, attitudes, and motivations of snaggers. Fenske (1983) reported that most salmonid anglers in Michigan supported

and to compare the results with those of a similar survey conducted on the lower Yellowstone River (Scarnecchia *et al.* 1996a).

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on the upper Missouri River were added. Questionnaires were reviewed by two specialists in the human dimensions of fisheries (one from a state fisheries agency and another from the University of Idaho) for inconsistencies, wording, and question sequence.

One series of questions addressed the motivations of snaggers (Table 1) and a second series of questions addressed the values, attitudes and preferences on snagging paddlefish and on bag limits (Table 2). Another question asked the respondents to rank the desirability of paddlefish in relation to

sizes in this study prevented such an analysis. A Kruskal-Wallis test (Conover 1980) was used to compare rankings of responses to the questions on motivations and attitudes (Tables 1 and 2), and species desirability preferences. A Chi-square test was used to compare responses to the same, corresponding questions between this sample of snaggers from the Missouri River and a sample of snaggers from the lower Yellowstone River as reported by Scarnecchia et al. (1996a). We also used a Chi-square test to investigate the relation between trip catch and

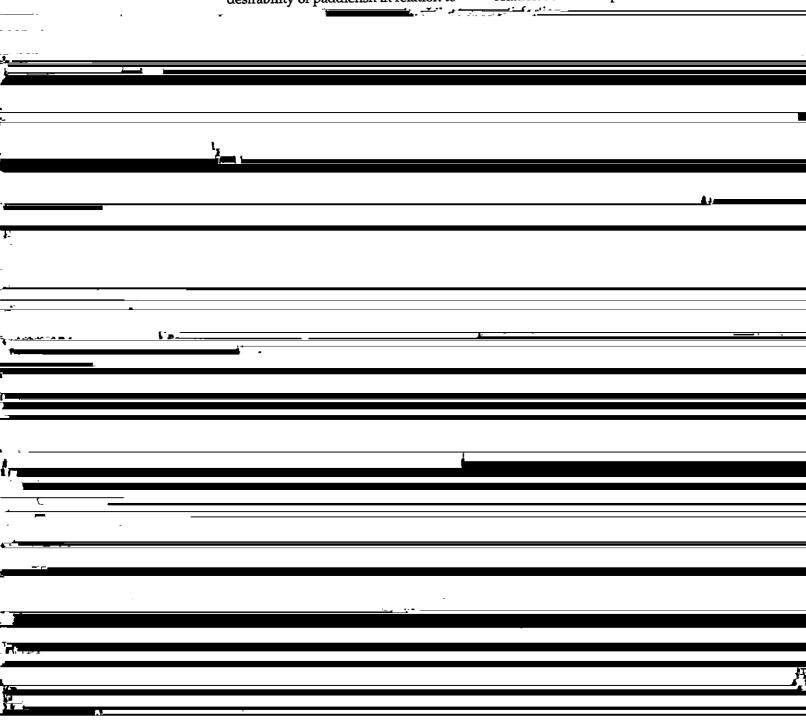
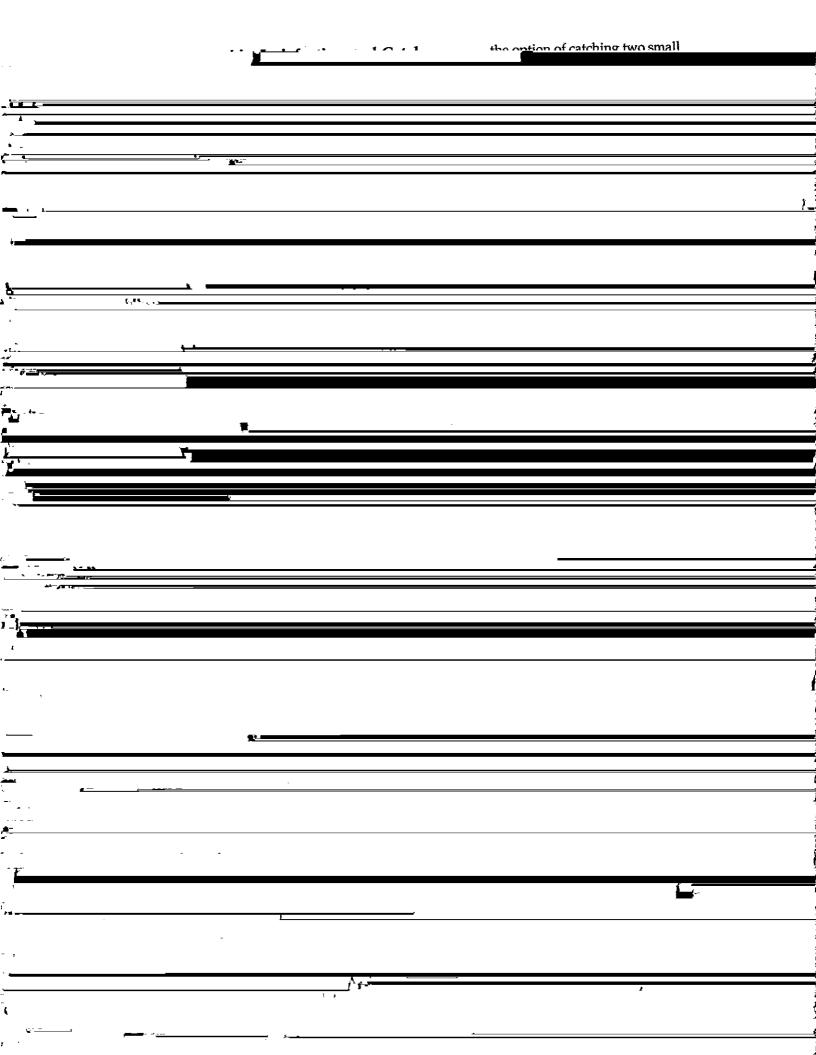
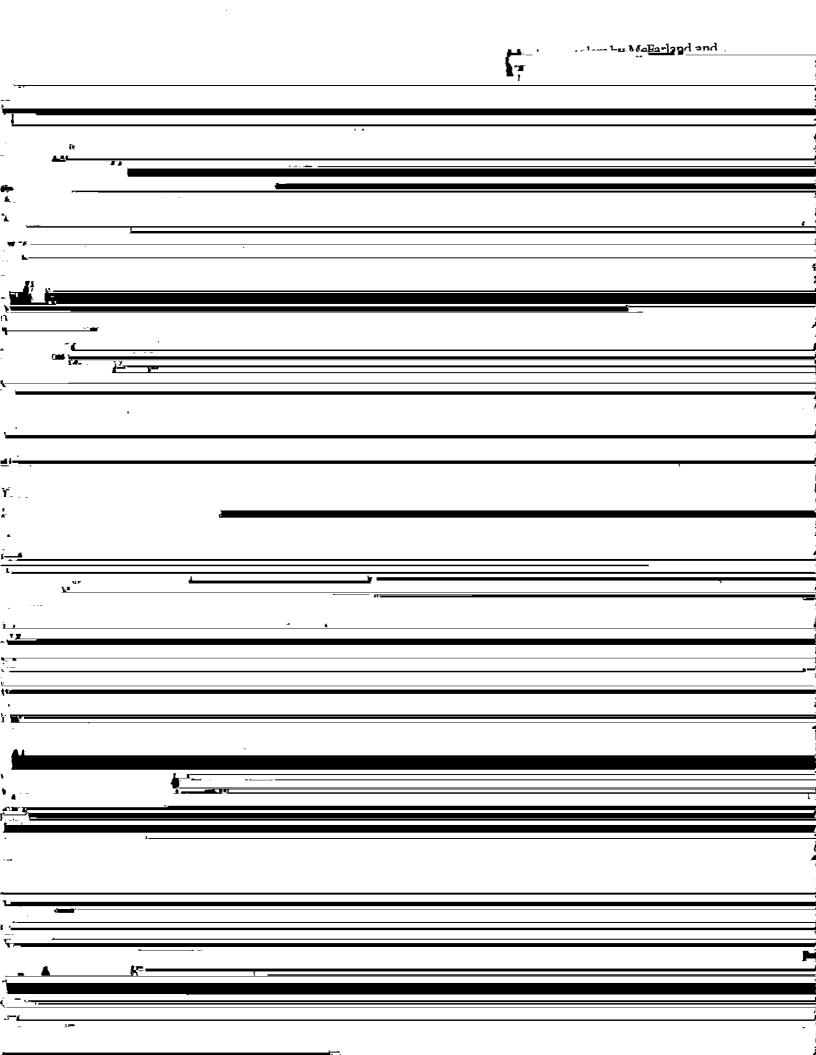


Table 2. Attitudes of paddlefish snaggers toward the fish and toward the harvest regulations expressed in percentage of responses to 20 questions (a-t). Responses were recorded on a Likert scale (strongly disagree, SD; disagree, D; neutral, N; agree, A; strongly agree, SA). Percentages do not include nonresponse (0-2%) to specific questions or questions deemed not applicable by respondent (0-4%).

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Question l), but that a three-fish limit would, overall, not be better than a two by snaggers for their natural outdoor surroundings, there was some evidence 15 AC -

LITERATURE CITED Falk, J. M. A. R. Graefe, and R. B. Ditton. R K 1001 Eigh populations of the . .

Scarnecchia, D. L., P. A. Stewart, and Y. Moeller, G. H., and J. H. Engelken. 1972.